

What is claimed is:

1. A fuel vapor storage canister comprising:

a canister having a vapor storage chamber of variable volume;

a partition that is movable within the canister and which partially defines the vapor storage chamber;

a vapor adsorbing material in the vapor storage chamber; and

a volume compensator comprising a spring having at least three legs that are deflected by and exert pressure against the movable partition to control the volume of the vapor storage chamber.
2. A fuel vapor storage canister as claimed in claim 1, wherein the legs of the spring are spaced apart to exert balanced pressure against the partition.
3. A fuel vapor storage canister as claimed in claim 2, wherein the spring comprises four legs.
4. A fuel vapor storage canister as claimed in claim 1, wherein the spring comprises a first pair of opposing legs and a second pair of opposing legs, wherein the first pair of opposing legs possesses a first spring rate and the second pair of opposing legs possesses a second spring rate.
5. A fuel vapor storage canister as claimed in claim 1, wherein the spring is formed from a unitary member.
6. A fuel vapor storage canister as claimed in claim 1, wherein the volume compensator has only one spring.
7. A fuel vapor storage canister as claimed in claim 1, wherein the spring comprises first and second band springs each having a base and a pair of opposing legs, the first and second band springs being angularly offset.

8. A fuel vapor storage canister as claimed in claim 8, wherein the first and second band springs are formed from a unitary member.
9. A method of assembling a fuel vapor storage canister comprising the steps of:
 - providing a canister having a vapor storage chamber of variable volume;
 - providing a partition that is movable within the canister and which partially defines the vapor storage chamber;
 - providing a vapor adsorbing material in the vapor storage chamber;
 - providing a volume compensator comprising a spring having at least three legs; and
 - positioning the spring inside the canister but outside of the vapor storage chamber such that the legs of the spring are deflected by and exert pressure against the movable partition to control the volume of the vapor storage chamber.
10. A volume compensator for a fuel vapor storage canister having a movable partition, the volume compensator comprising:
 - a spring having at least three legs that are adapted to exert balanced pressure on the partition when positioned inside the canister.
11. A volume compensator as claimed in claim 10, wherein the spring comprises four legs.
12. A volume compensator as claimed in claim 10, wherein the spring comprises a first pair of opposing legs and a second pair of opposing legs, wherein the first pair of opposing legs possesses a first spring rate and the second pair of opposing legs possesses a second spring rate.
13. A volume compensator as claimed in claim 10, wherein the spring is formed from a unitary member.
14. A volume compensator as claimed in claim 10, wherein the spring comprises first and second band springs each having a base and a pair of opposing legs, the first and second band springs being angularly offset.

15. A volume compensator as claimed in claim 14, wherein the first and second band springs are formed from a unitary member.